

What is claimed is:

1. A system for filtering reflected infrared signals said system comprising:
an IR receiving device having a detection range and an output, said output indicative of at least one IR detection value; and
control logic configured to receive a plurality of IR detection values, wherein the control logic compares said at least one IR detection value with an activation threshold to detect an object within said detection range, said control logic further configured to detect motion.
2. A system for filtering reflected infrared signals as claimed in claim 1, said system further comprising a fluid-dispensing device, wherein said at least one IR detection value is a plurality of IR detection values and wherein said control logic is configured to activate said fluid-dispensing device when one of said plurality of IR detection values exceeds the activation threshold.
3. A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said control logic is further configured to execute a timer for a predetermined time interval when said fluid-dispensing device is activated, and to deactivate the fluid-dispensing device when the timer expires or when said one IR detection value is less than the activation threshold.
4. A system as claimed in claim 3 wherein said control logic is configured to detect an increase in at least one of said plurality of IR detection values and activate said fluid-dispensing device.
5. A system for filtering reflected infrared signals as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a transmitting device that periodically emits pulses, said IR receiving device positioned to detect reflections of said pulses.
6. A system for filtering reflected infrared signals as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control logic detects motion by calculating the difference between consecutive IR detection values, and comparing said difference to the activation threshold.

7. A method for filtering reflected infrared signals said method comprising the steps of:

comparing an IR detection value to an activation threshold;
detecting motion within a detection range; and
controlling a fluid dispensing device based on said comparing and detecting steps.

8. A method for filtering reflected infrared signals as claimed in claim 7, said comparing step further comprising the steps of:

emitting an IR pulse from a transmitting device; and
detecting a reflection of the IR pulse with a receiving device.

9. A method for filtering reflected infrared signals as claimed in claim 8 wherein said controlling step includes activating the fluid-dispensing device when the IR detection value exceeds the activation threshold.

10. A method for filtering reflected infrared signals as claimed in claim 9, said method further comprising the steps of:

setting a timer for a predetermined interval;
detecting motion during the predetermined interval; and
deactivating the fluid-dispensing device when the predetermined time interval expires or when the IR detection level is less than the activation threshold.

11. A method for filtering reflected infrared signals as claimed in claim 10, said method further comprising the steps of:

sensing IR detection values; and
activating the fluid-dispensing device when an increase in IR detection is sensed.